

REMARKS

Prior to an examination of the present application, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein and new claims 14-30 have been added.

Respectfully submitted,

Masayuki SATO et al.

By 

Jeffrey R. Filipek
Registration No. 41,471
Attorney for Applicants

JRF/fs
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
June 2, 2006